

of this year. In early 2005, I cosponsored a bipartisan bill, S. 267, to reauthorize county payments for another 7 years. In February, the administration proposed reauthorizing the law for only 5 years, while cutting funding by 60 percent, and funding that reduced portion with a controversial Federal land sale scheme.

During the August recess, the administration agreed to work with us to find a mutually acceptable solution to fully fund county payments for another year. On August 7, 2006, I received a letter from Mr. Mark Rey, Under Secretary for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, in which the administration committed to work with me, and my colleagues Senator SMITH and Senator CRAIG, to reauthorize the program for the coming year, through a mutually acceptable funding source. This is not a long-term solution, but it will address the needs of hundreds of communities for the short term. Because of the commitment of the administration to work with me, and my colleagues Senator SMITH and Senator CRAIG, to reach a solution, I will no longer object to any unanimous consent request for the Senate to take up the nominations of John Ray Correll, Mark Myers, and David Bernhardt. I will, however, continue to look for the agreed upon funding solution to be proposed from the administration, while looking toward a future long-term solution.

I ask unanimous consent that a copy of this statement along with Mr. Rey's letter be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,  
*Washington, DC, August 7, 2006.*

Hon. RON WYDEN,  
*U.S. Senate,  
Washington, DC.*  
Hon. LARRY E. CRAIG,  
*U.S. Senate,  
Washington, DC.*  
Hon. GORDON SMITH,  
*U.S. Senate,  
Washington, DC.*

DEAR SENATORS: Like you, the U.S. Department of Agriculture recognizes the importance of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act. We are committed to working with you to reauthorize the program this year.

Acknowledging the difficulty in a multi-year reauthorization of this program prior to the September 30, 2006, expiration of the program's authority, we commit to working with you to enact a one year extension of the program, at full funding levels, and finding mutually acceptable offsets. We understand from our discussions that time does not permit the enactment of our proposed land sales offset as free standing legislation; as such, this would not be an offset option for the one year extension.

We appreciate your leadership on this issue and look forward to continuing working with you.

Sincerely,

MARK REY,  
*Under Secretary,  
Natural Resources and the Environment.*

#### CONGRESSMAN ROBERT GIAIMO

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a former colleague and dear friend, Robert Giaimo, who passed away on May 24 of this year. He served the people of Connecticut and the United States as a Member of the House of Representatives for more than 20 years, and I want to speak to my colleagues today about the life and legacy of this dedicated public servant.

Bob Giaimo was born in North Haven, CT on October 19, 1919, son of the late Rose and Rosario Giaimo. He attended North Haven public schools, and graduated from Fordham University before receiving his law degree from the University of Connecticut in 1943. During World War II, Bob served as a commissioned officer in the United States Army. When he returned, he served as the chairman of the State of Connecticut Personnel Appeals Board, as a member of the North Haven Board of Education, North Haven Board of Finance, and as third selectman of the town of North Haven.

Bob Giaimo's public service culminated with his tenure in the House of Representatives. Elected in 1958, Congressman Giaimo represented Connecticut's third congressional district until his retirement in 1980. During his eleven terms in office, Representative Giaimo served as a member of the House Education and Labor Committee between 1959 and 1963, and went on to serve on the House Appropriations Committee. When the House Committee on the Budget was established in 1974, Representative Giaimo was elected to serve as a member, and was elected chairman of that committee in 1979. He was the first Connecticut Democrat and the first Connecticut Member of Congress since 1931 to chair a congressional committee.

One of Congressman Giaimo's greatest legislative achievements was undoubtedly his 1965 sponsorship of the bill that created the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities, separate grant-making agencies that support our nation's painters, sculptors, writers, poets, and historians, among others. His dedication to this legislation has made an enormous contribution to America's cultural heritage.

When I was elected to Congress in 1975, Bob was already a senior member of the House. But he very graciously took an interest in showing this newcomer the ways of that institution. With me, as with all who knew him, Bob was a public figure who led by example. Never one to seek the spotlight, Bob remained dedicated to the working families, the poor, the elderly, and others who cannot afford to buy a voice in Washington and who instead rely on their elected officials to look out for them in the corridors of power. The quality and caliber of this leadership will be missed and continues to inspire those of us who knew him and who serve in public life.

My wife Jackie and I offer our deepest condolences to his wife Marion, his daughter Barbara, and his granddaughter Tracey. They have lost a beloved member of their family. And the people of Connecticut and our Nation have lost a dedicated public servant and an exceptional man.

I was honored to attend Representative Giaimo's memorial service on June 1, and found the eulogy, delivered by Reverend Hugh MacDonald, to be particularly moving. I ask unanimous consent that the text of the eulogy be printed in the RECORD.

#### EULOGY: ROBERT GIAIMO

(Reverend Hugh MacDonald, June 1, 2006)

The great cathedrals of Europe are a glorious part of our Christian heritage—towering testimonials to an Age of Faith. But anyone who now visits these sublime buildings soon realizes that they also have a history as cemeteries for the celebrated.

Whether interred in the basement crypts or encased in magnificent tombs scattered around the sanctuary and aisles, the famous dead almost vie for attention with our living worship.

My personal favorite among cathedral tombs is in the Cathedral of Saint Richard in the city of Chichester on the southern coast of England. In the north aisle of that elegant church is a massive stone sepulcher containing the remains of the fourteenth-century Earl of Arundel and his countess. Side by side, atop the monument, lie their carved stone likenesses.

A famous warrior, he is clad in medieval armor, and his feet rest up on a lion—the symbol of bravery. On his right, his wife is shown in nun-like robes, her feet resting on a small dog—symbol of fidelity.

Purely as sculpture, the Arundel tomb is not all that impressive, and six centuries have blurred the once precise details of the carved faces. But what finally rivets your attention is their hands! The universal custom in pious monument-sculpture is for the hands to be stiffly folded on the chest, pointing heavenward in a gesture of everlasting prayer.

Not so with the Arundels! His left arm lies at his side, and in that left hand he holds the empty glove (or gauntlet) for his right hand. So, immediately your eyes seek out that right hand. His right arm is also relaxed at his side, and the hand is thus concealed by the overlapping folds of the countess's robe as she lies beside him. But if you go to the foot of the monument and stoop down a bit, you can discover their touching secret. Under the carved armor and the pleated dress, their hands are clasped in tender love!

I find that detail enormously moving. We know almost nothing now about the once famous exploits of this heroic earl and nothing whatsoever about his wife. And in the cathedral that houses their bones, the centuries have witnessed violent religious wars and the cruel ravages of time. But through it all and despite it all, those clasped hands are a reminder of what is noblest in our lives and in our legacy. The poet Philip Larkin put it beautifully in the final line of his meditation on the Arundel tomb when he wrote: "What will survive of us is love."

Those words sprang to my mind on Monday after I had talked on the phone with Barbara about the shining love her parents shared. Robert and Marion were married here at Saint Barnabas sixty-one years ago. Sadly, poor health prevents Marion from being here with us this morning for this Mass of Christian Burial.

But in fact every celebration of the Eucharist reminds us that nothing can truly separate us from our love of the Lord or our love

of each other. Not miles or years or even death! Love is always present tense, and love never comes to an end!!

Clearly, what God asks of us is not just theoretical love, love-in-the-abstract. Not at all! God challenges you and me to flesh out our love in acts of living prayer and lives of authentic service. Unless our hands are clasped in love, nothing else really matters.

Robert Giaimo understood that challenge, and he lived that faith with sincerity and simple conviction. Harry Truman (God bless him!) once said that the politicians of his era used to pour God over everything—like ketchup! (By the way, I don't know what President Truman would have to say about the current level of religiosity in our political discourse, but I for one would dearly love to hear it!!!)

But Bob Giaimo's faith was never showy or self-congratulatory. He didn't preach sermons, he just served people.

This was a man who regularly walked the corridors of power, but never forgot his roots, his heritage, his humanity. His towering stature made him an imposing presence, but his genuine humility made him a caring person and a lasting friend. And, of course, a deeply devoted husband, father, and grandfather.

The pulpit is not a place to assess his political achievements, but I can't resist a heartfelt "Thank you!" to the man who was so influential in creating the National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities. He firmly believed that the arts not only enrich our lives but actually instruct us how to live. (That's one of the reasons I began this eulogy with that Arundel anecdote.)

Our brother has now passed beyond our sight but not at all beyond our reach. He is quite literally only a prayer away. And on each day of our continuing journey of faith, he will continue through the power of his prayer to reach into our lives: to touch us, to lead us, to help us. Because, for Robert Giaimo it has always been quite personal!

And isn't that precisely the point Jesus is making in today's gospel selection? Notice the Lord did not say to His anxious Apostle: "Thomas, I will show you the way, I will teach you the truth, I will give you life." No: it's absolutely personal. "Thomas, I AM the Way and the Truth and the Life."

No one was ever saved by words or rituals, by laws or creeds. We are saved by the powerful Person of the Lord, and we show our acceptance of that great gift by cherishing all the precious people who share our journey.

So, when all is said and done, Bob Giaimo's gift to us was not a legacy of laws but of loving service. Power passes, and fame is fleeting. "What will survive of us is love."

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### PAYNESVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT, PAYNESVILLE, MINNESOTA

• Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, today I honor the Paynesville Area School District, in Paynesville, MN, which recently earned an Award for Excellence in Education for its exceptional and innovative achievements in educating children.

The Paynesville Area School District is truly a model of educational success. The district administrators, teachers, staff, and parents have remained focused on the District's mission: "Success for Everyone Through Quality Learning."

The commitment of the entire community to the education of its children has earned the Paynesville Area School District's high school a five-star rating in both math and reading, one of only seven percent of schools in the State that can make that claim. The elementary school also earned a five-star rating in reading. Paynesville is very proud of the fact that it is the only district in greater Minnesota that has five stars in reading for both its elementary and high schools.

Paynesville, a rural community, continually seeks new ideas to remain competitive in a progressive society while cherishing local history and tradition. Along with the fundamentals of reading, writing, and mathematics, the district also emphasizes respect as a basic value.

The Paynesville Area School District offers a number of innovative programs, including full-day kindergarten for everyone; children in kindergarten and first grade are grouped by ability; teachers in grades 2 and 3 remain with the same teacher for 2 years in a row; parents can view children's grades through the district's Web site; and College in the Classroom courses are available for fundamentals of college writing, rhetoric, and introduction to literature, allowing students to earn college credit in these subjects.

The Paynesville Area School District also offers a wide variety of cocurricular activities, including: an award-winning Future Farmers of America Program, a Future Leaders of America Program, and a Business Professionals of America Program. The middle school band has been rated "Best Young Band," and the high school choir performed at candlelight processions at Disney's Epcot Center in 2000 and 2004.

Much of the credit for the Paynesville Area Public School's success belongs to its superintendent, Mr. Todd Burlingame, and the district's dedicated principals, teachers, and staff. The students and staff at the Paynesville Area School District understand that, in order to be successful, a school must go beyond achieving academic success; it must also provide a nurturing environment where students can develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes for success throughout life. All of the faculty, staff, and students at the Paynesville Area School District should be very proud of their accomplishments.

I congratulate the Paynesville Area School District in Paynesville for winning the Award for Excellence in Education and for its exceptional contributions to education in Minnesota.●

##### LITTLE FALLS COMMUNITY MIDDLE SCHOOL, LITTLE FALLS, MINNESOTA

• Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, today I honor Little Falls Community Middle School, in Little Falls, MN, which recently earned an Award for Excellence

in Education for its exceptional and innovative achievements in educating children.

Little Falls Community Middle School is truly a model of educational success. Every year since 1997, its Language Arts Department has invited well-known authors to work with the students to help develop their writing skills. Students are assigned beforehand to read one or more of each author's books. This approach to teaching both an appreciation of reading and improved writing skills works very well in a middle school setting.

This year, Will Weaver was invited to work with the students. Some other authors who have participated are Will Durbin, Patricia Calvert, and Earl Fleck. The author spends 2 days teaching techniques for writing stories that allow the reader to "feel" what is happening. The authors discuss their favorite books, how they came up with the ideas for their books, how long it takes to write a chapter, and how they were able to get their first books published. Students come away from the experience believing that they, too, can become good writers.

Another program unique to the school is its annual Water Festival, which allows sixth-graders to travel each year to nearby Camp Ripley for hands-on experience learning about the significance of water in our environment. The festival offers children an opportunity to discover how important water is in their lives and how we ourselves affect water, positively or negatively. They learn about water purification techniques, invertebrates that live in the water, wetland habitat, the history of the Mississippi River, and the characteristics of a watershed. The school makes use of National Guard staff, Department of Natural Resources Specialists, and representatives from the Science Museum of Minnesota.

This year, Little Falls Community Middle School suffered a tremendous loss when one of its teachers, Mr. Lee Hochsprung, died suddenly. He had enjoyed spending time with his family, teaching at the middle school for 31 years in language arts, EBD, and social studies, hunting, fishing, camping, cooking, watching his children play sports, announcing wrestling matches, listening to all kinds of music, and reading history. He was a compassionate person, a motivator, and a loving husband, father, and loyal friend. The Little Falls community will remember Lee for his stories, jokes, great teaching skills, fabulous coaching ability, gift for connecting with students and parents, capacity for fun, and love for all children, especially for his own children, Laura, Paul, Phil, and Katie, and his wife Julie.

Much of the credit for Little Falls Community Middle School's success belongs to its principal, Dr. Maxine Strege, and the dedicated teachers. The students and staff at Little Falls Community Middle School understand that in order to be successful, a school must